

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings includes changes to Fig. 2. This sheet, which includes Fig. 2, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 2.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

Remarks

In response to the non-final Office Action mailed January 30, 2006, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejections and that the case pass to issue in light of the amendments above and the remarks below.

By this papers claims 21 and 22 are amended to more particular point out and distinctly claim the prestart and precharging operations. A number of paragraphs of the specification and Block 110 of Figure 2 are amended to clarify informalities with respect to the use of the terms "prestart" and "precharging." These amendments add no new matter to the application and only made to better clarify the usage of these terms.

The Examiner submits claims 1-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by UPSA 2003/0029654 to Shimane. The Applicants submit the presently claimed invention is patentable and nonobvious over the Shimane application.

Claims 1-20 are Patentable Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a)

The present invention includes three independent claims, 1, 10, and 19. Each independent claims includes limitations directed towards transferring energy from a high voltage bus to a low voltage bus during prestart. The Shimane application fails to teach these limitations.

The Shimane application merely teach transferring energy from a high voltage bus to a low voltage bus during precharging. Not prestart. Precharging occurs before prestart. Precharging occurs during a period prior to the closing of contactors used to connect a high voltage energy storage device to the high voltage bus. The precharging relates to charging the high voltage bus to a voltage close to a voltage of the high voltage provided by the high voltage energy storage device. The Shimane application only transfer energy to the low voltage bus during precharging. The transference of energy from the high voltage bus ceases once the contactors are closed. (See paragraphs 86-87)

In contrast, the presently claimed prestart occurs after precharging, and more particularly, after the contactors or other feature used to connect the high voltage bus and high voltage energy storage device are closed.

As required under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a), the Shimane application must particularly disclose each limitation recited in the independent claims. The Shimane application, however, fails to disclose energy transfer to the high voltage bus after precharging is complete. The Examiner has failed to cite any portion of the Shimane application to refute this assertion. Consequently, the Applicants respectfully submit the Shimane application fails to disclose each limitation recited in the independent claims, and therefore, the independent claims and dependent claims, which depend therefrom and include all the laminations thereof, are patentable and nonobvious over the Shimane application.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to better clarify the rejections to each pending claim. The Examiner has merely provided a blanket rejection to each claim without any suitable explanation or citation of the Shimane application. Claims 2, 7, 19, 21, and 22 include particular limitations that distinguish prestart from precharging. The Examiner has failed to provide any detailed arguments with respect to these claims and is respectfully invited to do so as it is believed that these claims are separately patentable from the independent claims from which they depend.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit each rejection has been fully replied to and traversed and the case is in condition to pass to issue. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this case to issue and is invited to contact the undersigned if it would further prosecution of this case to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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